

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

SECDEF PRIORITY

OSAF PRIORITY

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CINCUSAFE PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 073512

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, LY, PINR, MOPS

SUBJECT: LARAF ATTACK ON C-130

REF: ATHENS 2221

1. REDRAFT OF STATEMENT AS PROPOSED REFTL NOT SUFFICIENT-
LY SPECIFIC AND COULD IN OUR VIEW PROVIDE PRETEXT FOR
LATER GREEK RESERVATIONS ON SOME MISSION OBJECTIVES.
MOREOVER, ANY ALTERATION OF TEXT CREATES PROBLEM
IN THAT ORIGINAL VERSION WILL REMAIN IN GREEK HANDS
FOR LATER COMPARISON AND POSSIBLE CHARGES U. S. INITIATED
ATTEMPT MISLEAD CIVILIAN SIDE OF GOG.

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2. WE ARE WARY OF UNSPECIFIED PURPOSES OF HAF AND SHAFIC TO BE SERVED BY AN EXPURGATED VERSION OF STATE-MENT. AS MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THE PRIME MINISTER CLEARLY IN POSITION BRING THAT BUREAUCRACY TO HEEL, AND SUGGESTION THAT REGIME SOMEHOW CAN BE CALLED TO ACCOUNT BY ITS CIVILIAN COMPONENT IS NOT PERSUASIVE. IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO KNOW TO WHAT EXTENT PAPA VASSILIOU'S INITIATIVES IN THIS AND OTHER ASPECTS OF THIS MATTER ACCURATELY REFLECT SENTIMENTS OF HIS SENIORS AND OF GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP.

3. IF EMBASSY SATISFIED PROVISION MODIFIED VERSION OF

TEXT IS UNAVOIDABLE AND USEFUL TO PROTECT OUR INTERESTS, FOLLOWING LANGUAGE SHOULD BE USED FOR REPLACEMENT FIRST PARAGRAPH OF STATEMENT:

BEGIN TEXT: " THE U. S. NAVY AND THE U. S. AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION AIRCRAFT, PRINCIPALLY C-130'S AT PRESENT, RECEIVING EN ROUTE OR TURN- AROUND SUPPORT AT ATHENAI AIRPORT, HAVE FOR OVER TWENTY YEARS PERFORMED MISSIONS OF PASSIVE ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE AGAINST WARSAW PACT MILITARY ELEMENTS IN THE BALKAN AREA AND RECENTLY AGAINST SOVIET FORCES OPERATING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA. THESE SOVIET FORCES INCLUDE THE SOVIET MEDITERRANEAN FLEET, WHETHER OPERATING AT SEA OR FROM FACILITIES IN FOREIGN PORTS. ALSO INCLUDED AS TARGETS OF THIS SURVEILLANCE ARE SOVIET AIR AND AIR DEFENSE FORCES WHEN DEPLOYED FOR OPERATIONS ON THE MEDITERRANEAN LITTORAL. THIS HAS INCLUDED MONITORING OF SOVIET ACTIVITIES ASHORE, PARTICULARLY RUSSIAN OPERATION OF SOVIET EQUIPMENT INCLUDING AIRCRAFT, RADARS, ETC. TO ASCERTAIN THE PROBABLE EXTENT TO WHICH THEY ARE POTENTIAL ADDITIONS TO WARSAW PACT STRENGTH IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA. " END TEXT. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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